

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 1 through 13 with the following amended paragraph:

To commence the execution of handoff, the subscriber unit 16 generates a handoff start signal which is applied to the base stations 17A and 17B. This functions to direct buffer unit 31B to commence forwarding the data packets stored therein to the subscriber unit 16 starting with a predetermined sequence number of the stored packets. It also functions to direct buffer unit 31A to cease sending data packets to the subscriber unit 16 at that time, and to continue caching them. Thereafter, the subscriber unit 16 sends a handoff complete signal to the base stations 17A and 17B. The handoff signal to the base station 17A includes a ~~Mobil~~ Mobile IP registration request with a lifetime value equal to zero, notifying the home agent 21 that the mobility binding to the subscriber unit 16 via the foreign agent 22 is no longer valid. In reply, the home agent 21 sends an acknowledgement back to the subscriber unit 16. As a result, the base station 17A will no longer receive data packets from the home agent 21, freeing up the base station resources for other tasks. The handoff complete signal sent to the base station 17B indicates that the handoff process has been completed.